

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 17986 01 OF 04 300313Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 STR-07
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /096 W
-----042326 300524Z /64

R 281808Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2313
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 BONN 17986

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: GW, PINT
SUBJECT: THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN THE FRG

BEGIN SUMMARY. SUMMER TURNS TO FALL IN BONN WITH NO
APPRECIABLE CHANGE IN THE TEMPERATURE, THE GREYNESS OF
THE SKY, OR THE MOIST, HAZY AIR. BUT THE POLITICAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 17986 01 OF 04 300313Z

CLIMATE CHANGES, AT FIRST IMPERCEPTIBLY AS POLITICIANS
AND OFFICIALS TRICKLE BACK TO TOWN, THEN MORE DRAMATIC-
ALLY AS THE GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT BURST INTO ACTIVITY
AND AS THE FIRST SCANDAL OF THE NEW SEASON HITS THE
SCENE.

THIS YEAR IS NO DIFFERENT. IF ANYTHING, POLITICAL LIFE

HAS PICKED UP MORE QUICKLY THAN USUAL. SCHMIDT AND THE REST OF POLITICAL GERMANY HAVE A BAD CASE OF ELECTION FEVER. THEY ARE WAITING FOR THE STATE ELECTIONS IN HESSE AND BAVARIA, OCTOBER 8 AND 15, AND MUCH OF WHAT PASSES FOR SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE TODAY IS REALLY PRE-ELECTION SKIRMISHING. A LOT RIDES ON THESE ELECTIONS, INCLUDING THE FATE OF SCHMIDT'S COALITION PARTNER, THE FREE DEMOCRATS (FDP), AND THE PROSPECT OF A LEGISLATIVE STRANGLEHOLD ON THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD THE OPPOSITION, BY WINNING IN HESSE, GAIN A COMMANDING MAJORITY IN THE UPPER HOUSE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THESE ELECTIONS DO NOT LOOM AS APOCALYPTIC FOR SCHMIDT AND HIS PARTY AS THEY DID A FEW MONTHS AGO. THERE SEEMS TO BE A SENSE THAT THE COALITION WILL GO ON EVEN IF THE COALITION PARTIES LOSE IN HESSE, AND WILL MANAGE TO MAKE DO WITH A POORER PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION THAN BEFORE. THERE IS ALSO A SLIGHTLY BETTER PROSPECT OF WINNING IN HESSE THAN A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO.

STANDING BACK FROM THE HEADLINES, SCHMIDT STARTS THE POLITICAL SEASON IN AN UNUSUAL POSITION FOR A WESTERN LEADER IN HIS FIFTH YEAR. HIS PERSONAL POPULARITY IS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH. HE HAS RESPECT FROM ALL QUARTERS OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. THE OPPOSITION LIKES TO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 17986 01 OF 04 300313Z

COMMENT HOW SAD IT IS THAT HE IS NOT A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT, AND THERE ARE EVEN OCCASIONAL COMPARISONS TO ADENAUER.

BUT SCHMIDT'S GOVERNMENT AND COALITION ARE ALSO SHOWING SERIOUS SIGNS OF WEAR FROM HARD ISSUES AND TIME. SCHMIDT'S OWN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS A NOISY LEFT WHICH CAN GET OUT OF HAND ON ISSUES LIKE TAXES AND TERRORISM, AND THE PARTY AS A WHOLE IS PSYCHOLOGICALLY ON THE DEFENSIVE AT THE MOMENT AS A RESULT OF THE PACEPA AFFAIR, WHICH HAS AGAIN STIMULATED SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE LOYALTY OF THE PARTY'S LEFT TO THE WESTERN ALLIANCE. SCHMIDT'S FREE DEMOCRATIC COALITION PARTNER IS IN THE MIDST OF AN IDENTITY CRISIS, CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO INCREASINGLY CENTRIST LARGER PARTIES, AND FACES A GENUINE THREAT OF SURVIVAL IN ELECTIONS OVER THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS. THERE ARE ALSO TOUGH ISSUES, LIKE TAXES AND TERRORISM, WHICH CAN STRAIN THE TENUOUS COHESION OF THE COALITION.

IN ALL, IT IS AN IMPERFECT SITUATION FOR SCHMIDT. THINGS JUST COULD GET OUT OF CONTROL, AND HIS ABILITY TO PLAN

BOLDLY ON TOUGH ISSUES IS LIMITED BY DOMESTIC POLITICAL
REALITIES. BUT IT IS NOT AN UNUSUAL SITUATION BY
EUROPEAN OR US STANDARDS, AND WHAT STANDS OUT PARTICULAR-
LY IS THAT SCHMIDT IS FLOURISHING AS A LEADER AT THE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 17986 02 OF 04 300321Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 STR-07
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /096 W
-----042475 300524Z /64

R 281808Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2314
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 04 BONN 17986

USEEC

SAME TIME THAT HIS PARTY AND COALITION ARE IN A PERIOD
OF MALAISE. END SUMMARY.

ELECTION FEVER

1. HESSE AND BAVARIA (OCTOBER 8 AND 15) HAVE GREATER

SIGNIFICANCE THAN NORMAL STATE BY-ELECTIONS AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 17986 02 OF 04 300321Z

CURRENTLY DOMINATE THE POLITICAL SCENE IN THE FRG AS WELL AS THE CALENDARS OF THE POLITICAL BIG-GUNS FROM ALL PARTIES, WHO ARE STUMPING IN HESSE ABOUT AS MUCH AS GOVERNING OR LEGISLATING IN BONN. BOTH ELECTIONS ARE VIRTUALLY A MATTER OF SURVIVAL FOR THE FREE DEMOCRATS, WHO WERE ELIMINATED FROM TWO STATE GOVERNMENTS LAST JUNE BY GETTING LESS THAN FIVE PERCENT OF THE VOTE, AND WHO COULD SUFFER THE SAME FATE IN THESE TWO CONTESTS. IN ADDITION, A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (CDU) WIN IN HESSE WOULD GIVE THE OPPOSITION A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN THE BUNDESRAT, THEORETICALLY ENABLING THE OPPOSITION TO STYMIE LEGISLATION ORIGINATING FROM THE COALITION-CONTROLLED BUNDESTAG.

2. WHILE THE STAKES ARE UNUSUALLY HIGH, THE OUTLOOK IN THE COALITION--AT LEAST WITHIN THE SPD--IS NOT AS APOCALYPTIC OR PANICKY AS THREE MONTHS AGO, FOLLOWING LOSSES IN TWO JUNE LAND ELECTIONS WHICH ELIMINATED THE FREE DEMOCRATS FROM TWO STATE GOVERNMENTS. ONE REASON IS THAT THE SPD/FDP SEES A SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE OF RE-ELECTION IN HESSE, A JUDGMENT MOST OBSERVERS SHARE ABOUT AN ELECTION THAT CAN EASILY GO EITHER WAY. A SECOND IS A SENSE THAT, EVEN IF THE COALITION LOSES IN HESSE, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO DO BUSINESS UNTIL OTHER STATE ELECTIONS IN 1979 RESTORE MORE BALANCE IN THE UPPER HOUSE, OR THAT THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT WILL SIMPLY TOUGH IT OUT UNTIL THE 1980 NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

3. THE IDEA OF STICKING IT OUT IN THE FACE OF A LOSS IN HESSE IS AN IMPERFECT ONE. IF IT HAS VETO POWER IN THE BUNDESRAT, THE OPPOSITION WILL HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO REWRITE A FAIR AMOUNT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 17986 02 OF 04 300321Z

EVEN IF IT DOES NOT LOGJAM IT OUTRIGHT, WHICH MOST OBSERVERS VIEW AS UNLIKELY AND WHICH THE OPPOSITION ITSELF HAS PIOUSLY SAID IT WILL NOT DO. BY A SKILLFUL PROCESS OF CHANGING THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATION, THE OPPOSITION COULD HIGHLIGHT SPLITS WITHIN SCHMIDT'S COALITION AND MAKE THE GOVERNMENT LOOK INEPT WITHOUT MAKING IT LOOK LIKE AN INJURED PARTY. IT IS THIS POTENTIAL DILEMMA FOR SCHMIDT WHICH PROVIDES MUCH OF

THE DRAMA OF THE HESSE ELECTION, AND WHICH WILL POSE A
UNIQUE SET OF LEGISLATIVE PROBLEMS FOR THE GOVERNMENT
IF IT LOSES THIS ELECTION.

FRAYING IN THE COALITION

4. QUITE APART FROM THE ELECTIONS, THE BONN COALITION
IS IN ITS FIFTH YEAR UNDER SCHMIDT AND IN ITS NINTH YEAR
UNDER BOTH SCHMIDT AND BRANDT. IT SHOWS SIGNS OF AGE
AND WEAR, AND BOTH PARTIES HAVE INFIRMITIES WHICH TAKE
THEIR TOLL IN POLICY-MAKING OR IN PUBLIC IMAGE.

5. THE FREE DEMOCRATS FACE AN IDENTITY CRISIS AND A
CHALLENGE TO SURVIVAL. OVER THE YEARS, THE FDP HAS
FOUND ITSELF SQUEEZED BETWEEN TWO MAJOR NATIONAL PARTIES
WHICH HAVE MOVED INCREASINGLY TOWARD THE CENTER AND
WHICH HAVE ABSORBED SOME OF THE LIBERALS' BASE. MORE
RECENTLY, THE FDP HAS BEEN CHALLENGED BY SMALL, NASCENT
ENVIRONMENTALIST GROUPS WHICH ALSO COMPETE FOR ITS
CONSTITUENCY. IN ADDITION, THE FDP IS AWARE THAT ITS
OWN SPD COALITION PARTNER IS BEGINNING TO THINK OF WHAT
TO DO IF THE LIBERALS SHOULD FAIL TO GET THE NEEDED
5 PERCENT IN FUTURE ELECTIONS, AND THAT THE SPD, LIKE
THE OPPOSITION, WANTS ITS SHARE OF THE LIBERALS' VOTE
IN SUCH A CASE.

6. THE SPD HAS A RESTIVE LEFT. THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT
MINORITY WHICH COMPLICATES POLITICAL LIFE FOR SCHMIDT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BONN 17986 02 OF 04 300321Z

AND OFTEN GIVES THE PARTY AS A WHOLE A POOR IMAGE AMONG
THE BASICALLY MODERATE GERMAN ELECTORS. IN RECENT YEARS,
THE LEFT HAS POSED SERIOUS POLICYMAKING PROBLEMS IN SUCH
AREAS AS TAXATION AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR LEGISLATION,
WITH TERRORISM AND THE NEUTRON WEAPON THE MAJOR CON-
TENTIOUS MATTERS OF THE PAST YEAR. THE CHANCELLOR'S
ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE IS A CURRENT PROBLEM AREA,

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 17986 03 OF 04 300322Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

TRSE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 STR-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /096 W

-----042509 300524Z /64

R 281808Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2315

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USNATO

USNMR SHAPE

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 04 BONN 17986

USEEC

WITH THE SPD LEFT ARGUING THAT THE PACKAGE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SKEWED IN A MORE EGALITARIAN MANNER AND SPEAKING OF POSSIBLE REVISIONS IN THE INCOME TAX SYSTEM. ON MOST SUCH ISSUES, THE SPD LEFT TENDS TO DISAGREE WITH THE FREE DEMOCRATS, ADDING TO TENSIONS IN THE COALITION. AND IT IS JUST SUCH ISSUES, WITH THEIR IDEOLOGICAL OVERTONES, THAT THE OPPOSITION COULD USE TO EMBARRASS THE SCHMIDT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 17986 03 OF 04 300322Z

COALITION IF IT HELD A 2/3 BUNDESRAT MAJORITY AS A RESULT OF A WIN IN HESSE.

7. THE SPD IS ALSO SOMEWHAT ON THE DEFENSIVE AS A RESULT OF THE PACEPA AFFAIR AND ALLEGATIONS THAT ITS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, EGON BAHR, FAVORS SOME FORM OF NEUTRALIZED CENTRAL EUROPE TO PERMIT GERMAN REUNIFICATION. WILD AS SOME OF THE CHARGES ARE (INVESTIGATIONS OF POSSIBLE ESPIONAGE BY TWO SPD FIGURES HAVE JUST BEEN FORMALLY DROPPED BY THE GOVERNMENT), THE NET EFFECT HAS BEEN

TO RE-FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE SPD'S ACHILLES HEEL, WHICH IS ITS LINGERING IMAGE AS A PARTY OF MARXIST ORIGINS AND LEFTIST ORIENTATION. THIS MAY HAVE NO REAL EFFECT ON THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS, BUT IS AN INHIBITING FACTOR FOR THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL, INCLUDING ON EAST-WEST AND SECURITY ISSUES.

CROSSCURRENTS IN THE OPPOSITION

8. THE UNION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND BAVARIAN CHRISTIAN SOCIALISTS (CDU/CSU) IS FRAYED BY TIME OUT OF OFFICE MUCH AS THE COALITION IS BY TIME IN POWER. THE UNION WANTS TO WIN NATIONALLY, AND TIME PRODUCES CONFLICTING VIEWS ON DIFFERENT STRATEGIES AND PERSONALITIES TO GAIN THIS ELUSIVE GOAL. AS A STANDARD BEARER, HELMUT KOHL TENDS TO BE THE LIGHTNING ROD FOR MUCH OF THIS CONTROVERSY.

9. THE OPPOSITION FELT THAT THE WINDS WERE BEGINNING TO BLOW THEIR WAY LAST JUNE AFTER THE FREE DEMOCRATS WERE KNOCKED OUT OF TWO STATE GOVERNMENTS. CURRENTLY, THE PSYCHOLOGICAL HIGH HAS PASSED, AS THE OUTLOOK IN HESSE SEEMS SLIGHTLY MORE FAVORABLE FOR THE INCUMBENT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 17986 03 OF 04 300322Z

SPD/FDP COALITION AND AS POLLS HAVE REINFORCED DEAD RECKONING ABOUT THE HIGH PERSONAL STANDING OF THE CHANCELLOR. KOHL HAS BEEN CHARGED BY CRITICS IN HIS PARTY WITH FRITTERING AWAY AN ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION. HE HAS ALSO BEEN CRITICIZED FOR THE SLOW HANDLING OF THE FILBINGER AFFAIR, INVOLVING A STATE CDU MINISTER-PRESIDENT WHOSE WARTIME PAST BECAME THE SUBJECT OF UNSAVORY REVELATIONS DURING THE SUMMER, AND WHO FINALLY SOLVED THE MATTER HIMSELF BY RESIGNING.

10. THE STRATEGIC DEBATE BETWEEN KOHL AND CSU LEADER FRANZ-JOSEPH STRAUSS IS DORMANT FOR THE MOMENT, BUT CAN RETURN. KOHL FAVORS A CENTRIST IMAGE FOR THE UNION (HE HAS SUCH AN IMAGE HIMSELF), KEEPING OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF A NATIONAL ALLIANCE WITH THE FDP. STRAUSS TENDS TO SEEK A SHARPER IMAGE FOR THE UNION (INCLUDING SOMEONE TO THE RIGHT OF KOHL AS STANDARD BEARER), AND WOULD LIKE TO DESTROY THE FREE DEMOCRATS NATIONALLY AND WIN A CLEAR MAJORITY OF MORE THAN 50 PERCENT FOR THE UNION. HIS FAVORITE MEANS TO THESE ENDS IS THE IDEA OF RUNNING HIS BAVARIAN CSU AS A NATIONAL PARTY, HOPING TO PICK UP SUPPORT FROM PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN NON-VOTERS IN THE FACE OF A BLAND POLITICAL PALATE. TO SOME DEGREE, THE CONCEPT IS AS MUCH TACTICS AS SUBSTANCE, SINCE IT SCARES BOTH STRAUSS' OPPONENTS, THE SPD AND

FDP, AS WELL AS KOHL AND MOST OF THE CDU, WHO FEAR IT
WILL COST THEM VOTES AND FRAGMENT THE UNION. IT MAY BE
ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, AFTER HESSE, THAT STRAUSS WILL
RETURN TO THIS IDEA PLUS THE MATTER OF PERSONALITIES
IN AN EFFORT TO PRESSURE AND PERHAPS UNSEAT KOHL.

11. BUT ALL IS NOT GOING BADLY FOR THE OPPOSITION.
THERE IS AT THE MOMENT NO PLAUSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO KOHL,
WHOSE PERSONAL POSITION MAY PARADOXICALLY BE STRENGTHENED
IF A PROSPECTIVE RIVAL--DREGGER--LOSES IN HESSE ON
OCTOBER 8. MORE BASICALLY, THE UNION CONTINUES TO HAVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BONN 17986 03 OF 04 300322Z

ABOUT THE SAME APPEAL NATIONALLY AS IN THE PAST FEW
YEARS, ABOUT 48 PERCENT OF THE VOTE, MAKING IT THE FRG'S
LARGEST PARTY. BECAUSE IT IS SO CLOSE TO POWER, THE
OPPOSITION IS OF COURSE ALL THE MORE AWARE THAT SCHMIDT'S
PERSONAL STANDING MAY BE THE FACTOR KEEPING HIS COALITION
IN OFFICE, RATHER THAN THE APPEAL OF THE TWO COALITION
PARTIES. WHETHER SCHMIDT HIMSELF WOULD WISH TO RUN
AGAIN IN 1980 IS THUS A VITAL QUESTION FOR THE OPPOSITION

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 17986 04 OF 04 300320Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 STR-07
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /096 W
-----042442 300525Z /64

R 281808Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2316
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 04 BONN 17986

USEEC

AS IT LOOKS TWO YEARS AHEAD TO NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

12. IN ADDITION, THE CDU HAS RECENTLY TAKEN TWO CREATIVE STEPS WHICH SHOULD PAY OFF OVER TIME. ONE IS THE SELECTION OF A POPULAR, MODERATE FIGURE--RICHARD VON WEISZAECKER--TO RUN AGAINST STOBBE FOR LORD MAYOR OF BERLIN. THIS GIVES THE UNION A CHANCE TO WIN AN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 17986 04 OF 04 300320Z

IMPORTANT ELECTION IN 1979, AND ALSO HELPS KOHL'S POSITION BECAUSE VON WEISZAECKER IS HIS ALLY AS A CENTRIST PARTY MODERATE. THE SECOND STEP IS NAMING KURT BIEDENKOPF, ONE OF GERMANY'S MOST ARTICULATE POLITICIANS, AS ECONOMIC SPOKESMAN IN THE BUNDESTAG. BIEDENKOPF IS A MAN WHO CAN HOLD HIS OWN IN DEBATE AGAINST ECONOMICS MINISTER LAMBSDORFF, OR, INDEED, AGAINST SCHMIDT HIMSELF. WHETHER HE WILL USE HIS FUTURE POSITION TO BUILD HIS OWN FORTUNE AT THE EXPENSE OF HELMUT KOHL REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT AT PRESENT HE IS A NEW PARTY ASSET.

CONCLUSIONS

13. WHAT THE ABOVE MEANS IS THAT, LIKE OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS AFTER SEVERAL YEARS, THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT IS WORN AND EDGY AND FACES AN OPPOSITION WITH PLENTY OF PROMISE AS WELL AS PLENTY OF PROBLEMS. THE BIG DIFFERENCE IS THAT, LIKE GOOD WINE, SCHMIDT HIMSELF HAS GOTTEN BETTER OVER THE YEARS AND IS GOING STRONG. HE IS A STATESMAN ON THE GERMAN SCENE, AND EVEN MORE PREPARED TO CONTINUE AND GROW AS A STATESMAN ON THE WORLD SCENE. FURTHER, SCHMIDT WILL BE AROUND FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS, BARRING THE UNFORESEEN. IF HIS COALITION PARTIES WIN IN THE HESSE ELECTION, HE WILL BE A FORMIDABLE FIGURE, ALTHOUGH WITH A SHAKY PARLIAMENTARY BASE SUCH AS HE HAS

TODAY. AND IF THE OPPOSITION WINS IN HESSE, HE WILL
STILL BE A POWERFUL FIGURE PERSONALLY, ALTHOUGH WITH A
MORE FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENTARY BASE AND A NEW SET OF
PROBLEMS THAT WILL CHALLENGE HIS SKILLS AS LEADER AND
MANAGER.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN17986
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780399-0435
Format: TEL
From: BONN USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978098/aaaaagax.tel
Line Count: 499
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a47ee852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1477972
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN THE FRG BEGIN SUMMARY. SUMMER TURNS TO FALL IN BONN WITH NO APPRECIABLE CHANGE IN THE TEMPERATURE, THE GREYNES
TAGS: PINT, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a47ee852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014